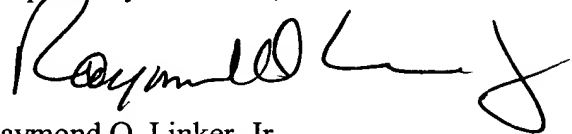


REMARKS

The above amendments are made to conform the specification and claims to United States practice. Please enter this amendment prior to calculation of the filing fee.

Respectfully submitted,



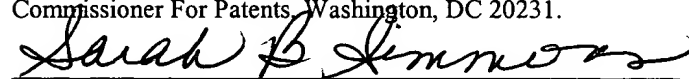
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Sarah B. Simmons

CLT01/4483393v1

Version With Markings to Show Changes Made:

In the Claims:

1. (Amended) A reagent [Reagent] for detecting an infection caused by a human immunodeficiency virus, [characterized in that it comprises] comprising a mixture consisting of (1) an antigenic peptide coded for by the *pol* gene of HIV-1 and comprising at most 60 amino acids, [preferably between 20 and 40 amino acids,] and (2) a mixture, called a mixotope, of convergent combinatorial peptides derived from said antigenic peptide.
2. (Amended) A reagent [Reagent] according to Claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein said antigenic peptide corresponds to an epitope of the integrase coded for by the *pol* gene of HIV-1.
3. (Amended) A reagent [Reagent] according to Claim 2, [characterized in that] wherein said antigenic peptide corresponds to the sequence KIQNFRVYYRDSRDPLWKGPALLWKGEAVVIQDN (SEQ ID NO:1) (HIV-POL).
4. (Amended) A reagent [Reagent] according to [any one of Claims 1 to 3, characterized in that] Claim 1, wherein the mixotope corresponds to a degeneration of the whole of the selected antigenic peptide.
5. (Amended) A reagent [Reagent] according to [any one of Claims 1 to 4, characterized in that] Claim 1, wherein the antigenic peptide (1) and the mixotope (2) are attached to a solid support[, preferably microtitre plates].
6. (Amended) A reagent [Reagent] according to Claim 5, [characterized in that] wherein said antigenic peptide (1) and said mixotope (2) are attached to said support sequentially.
7. (Amended) A reagent [Reagent] according to [any one of Claims 1 to 6, characterized in that] Claim 1, wherein the ratio of antigenic peptide to mixotope in the mixture is between 1:10 and 1:100.

8. (Amended) An enzyme [Enzyme] immunological method of diagnosing an HIV-1 infection, [characterized in that it] which employs a diagnostic reagent according to [any one of Claims 1 to 7] Claim 1.

9. (Amended) A method [Method] according to Claim 8, [characterized in that it] which comprises:

- bringing a serum to be analysed into contact with a reagent [according to any one of Claims 1 to 7] comprising a mixture consisting of (1) an antigenic peptide coded for by the *pol* gene of HIV-1 and comprising at most 60 amino acids, and (2) a mixture, called a mixotope, of convergent combinatorial peptides derived from said antigenic peptide;

- adding anti-human Ig antibodies coupled with an enzyme; and
- qualitatively and/or quantitatively disclosing the anti-integrase antibodies which may be present in the serum to be analysed by adding the enzyme substrate.

10. (Amended) A method [Method] according to Claim 8, [characterized in that it] which comprises:

- attaching [a reagent according to any one of Claims 1 to 7] to a support [such as a microtitre plate] a reagent comprising a mixture consisting of (1) an antigenic peptide coded for by the *pol* gene of HIV-1 and comprising at most 60 amino acids, and (2) a mixture, called a mixotope, of convergent combinatorial peptides derived from said antigenic peptide;

- adding the serum to be analysed;
- detecting the attachment of the anti-integrase antibodies present in said serum by adding anti-human IgG antibodies coupled with an enzyme; and
- qualitatively and/or quantitatively disclosing said antibodies in a spectrophotometer by adding the enzyme substrate.

11. (Amended) A kit [Kit] for diagnosing an HIV-1 infection, [characterized in that it] which comprises at least one reagent according to [any one of Claims 1 to 7] Claim 1.